From: Evan Dawson
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Dear RPS Trustees, volunteers, staff and friends

I do hope that you're all keeping safe and well, as the pandemic picture starts to change again. We are still excitedly planning to re-open the building in January, but we'll have to be flexible as the situation develops. Thank you to everyone for your continued patience, and your great creativity in working remotely to inspire and support SO many people through photography.

On **Monday**, we were all delighted when **Janet** came to RPS House for a visit. This was my first time meeting her in person, and we had lots to talk about! The rest of the staff team were really grateful to her for the words of thanks that she extended to them for all their efforts to keep the RPS going throughout the (first) lockdown period. After that, **Alan** Hodgson, **Matt** and I had a dry-run of the zoom meeting elements for tomorrow's **AGM**. Nothing can possibly go wrong now! (Ha) In the afternoon, I met up with **Mike Taylor** to touch base with him about the **governance review** process taking place at the moment.

On **Tuesday**, I had a fascinating conversation with **Edgar Gibbs** about the **Audio Visual** group. This is an area of photographic practice that is very new to me, and it was inspiring to see some of the group's work (online here). This weekend, Edgar and the group are leading an international retrospective to showcase work from all around the world (details here), so I hope many of you have registered to see this. I also spoke with Past President **Roy Robertson** about his views of the RPS, and his hopes for its future. We talked a lot about distinctions in particular. During the afternoon, I embarked upon my monthly **finances review** with each of the managers, through the watertight processes that **Nikki** has created for us. This always leads to useful conversations, and this time it was my conversation with **Kate** about the finances of the groups and regions that was particularly enlightening.

On **Wednesday**, I had a long conversation with Simon Dickson of **Think Consultants** who wrote a report for the RPS last year about potential new sources of income, with a particular focus on donations, grant-making and sponsorship. He made lots of very useful suggestions, which will feed into the strategy that the trustees and I are writing. I also reviewed progress with 'Progress' (our CRM system) that needs replacing, with **Simon Bibb**. In the afternoon, I spoke with **Barry Senior**, another eminent Past President who also founded the Thames Valley Region (the RPS regional group, not the region itself). Also that day, I did some actual photography, shooting the "City Poet Handover" at Bristol Old Vic (you can see my images here, if you're curious). It was great to be behind a lens again.

Yesterday, I spoke with our comms manager **Rebecca** about the many different initiatives she has coming up soon, including the approaching **RPS Awards**, which will be very different this year (more soon!). I also spoke with President Elect **Simon Hill** about his views of how things have been progressing during the past few months. We had another really useful CRM meeting, together with **Ian Race**, who is helping us with this.

Today, we had a **board meeting** to prepare for tomorrow's AGM, and talk about the various communications we are using now (particularly to ensure that our family of RPS volunteers feel included in the debates taking place at the moment). I also reviewed our emerging **membership strategy** with **Simon Bibb**, and had the great pleasure of joining part of a **Digital Imaging Group** meeting, chaired by **Ian Race**.

In other news, **Billy** has sent us the attached image of the IPE exhibition from its current home in Beverly (sent over by the Beverly Art Gallery curator Helena Cox). Billy writes:

> We are delighted that The International Photography Exhibition 162 has started its tour and opened on the 19 September at Beverely Art Gallery running until the 14 November. The tour will continue to Oriel Art Gallery in North Wales and then return to reopen the gallery at RPS House in the new year.
>
> Helena Cox curator of Beverley Art Gallery said "we are absolutely delighted to be hosting such a highly esteemed and prestigious exhibition. At Beverley Art Gallery, we have developed a habit of exhibiting world-class photography, so the 162nd International Photography Exhibition is an excellent addition to our photographic track record. The exhibition has had a great media response including BBC Radio Humberside and BBC radio York, plus an array of local media. It's a joy to have such a powerful show in the gallery, especially as times have been so hard on us recently"

To find out more about the IPE 162 visit https://rps.org/ipe162

I look forward to seeing lots of you at the **AGM** tomorrow morning. It's too late to register now, but do drop me a email if you'd like to join for the President's Address at 11am.

Next week, I've paused my scheduled conversations, to try to get some more shape on the strategic review. However, I will be taking with Barrie Brown, Stewart Wall and Sue Brown, and also representing the RPS at a talk at the Martin Parr Foundation featuring Don McCullin and Jonathan Dimbleby. We will also be welcoming Kimmi back to work every Friday onwards, to help with the build-up of Distinctions work.

I hope you're enjoying my weekly Snapshots, and please do send me anything you'd like me to share. I would be grateful if chairs and ROs could circulate this to their group members, if appropriate - and if you are receiving this indirectly, do drop me a line if you'd like me to add your email to the circulation list.

As always, please keep in touch, and do let me know if you'd like to discuss anything.

Happy weekending!

Evan

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